negotiating with various financial agencies/institutions to obtain the required loan to complete the balance works of the project as per schedule.

World Bank assistance for expansion of NTPC Units

56. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand some units of NTPC with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the names of units of NTPC, identified for the purpose; and

(c) the amount of World Bank assistance expected to be obtained for the expansion of these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been implementing Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project St. II (2×500 MW) under World Bank time slice loan. Further, NTPC has posed Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project (400 MW) for funding under this loan. NTPC also intends to pose some new projects for funding under this loan, meeting eligibility criteria set by the World Bank.

(c) An amount of US $ 400 Million, the first tranche of time slice loan, has been obtained by NTPC from the World Bank for utilising an its new projects, meeting eligibility criteria.

Levy of Customs Duty

57. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interest paid to foreign suppliers on imports made under the deferred payment arrangement suppliers credit is to be added to the value of such imported goods for the purpose of lavy of Customs Duty;

(b) if so, under which provisions of Law and what is the justification thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons for adding of such interest components to the value of imported goods and lavying of Customs Duty of interest component also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The question of addition of interest paid to foreign suppliers under the deferred payment arrangement to the value of imported goods, is considered on merits, based on the facts and circumstances of each transaction and in accordance with the provisions of Veluation Rules read with Section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962.

Government control of private power projects

58. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Parliamentary committee has urged Government to seriously examine the scope for bringing down the cost and tariff in the power projects in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to have control on the functioning of all private sector power projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The Twenty-Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (1995-96)—Tenth Lok Sabha—has, *inter-alia*, observed that due to the tariff structure being based on a 'cost plus' approach, the private investors appeared to have a tendency to inflate costs, which would ultimately result in higher tariff. It therefore recommended that the Government should examine the